



Ballet Pensacola
400 South Jefferson Street
Pensacola Florida, 32502
850.432.9546.
www.balletpensacola.org

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my absolute pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Darren McIntyre. I had the opportunity to work closely with Darren during his time as Artistic Director with Ballet Pensacola from 2021 through the spring of 2024. Darren was selected as our Artistic Director after an extensive interview process with about 50 candidates and he served the role with great passion, dedication, and inspiring leadership.

From the moment Darren applied for the position, he presented a strong and compelling artistic vision for the future of Ballet Pensacola. Throughout his three years as Artistic Director, he consistently encouraged and challenged us all to rise to higher artistic standards. I was fortunate to work alongside Darren in a variety of settings, from large-scale productions involving professional dancers to programs featuring children as young as three years old. Regardless of the group, Darren demonstrated an extraordinary ability to maintain a positive, productive, and well-organized rehearsal room.

One of Darren's greatest strengths is his capacity to see both the broad vision of a production and the individual needs of each dancer and staff member. He skillfully guided entire productions toward a cohesive artistic goal while ensuring that every individual under his leadership felt valued and supported. Darren fostered a work environment that was not only artistically driven but also positive, inclusive, and motivating for all involved.

Beyond his artistic achievements, Darren maintained fiscal responsibility, ensuring that productions remained within budget while still striving for ambitious new goals for our organization. He was deeply respectful of Ballet Pensacola's identity within our small-town community, balancing tradition with forward-thinking growth.

Darren is a natural leader — capable of leading teams, managing productions, inspiring dancers, and creating choreography that is fresh and meaningful. He is also a personable, approachable face of an organization, embodying the public-facing presence that every arts organization seeks in an Artistic Director.

I wholeheartedly believe that Darren would be an exceptional asset to any company or institution fortunate enough to work with him. He always encouraged Ballet Pensacola to be at its best and he pushed us an organization into new heights that we are still benefiting from today. He is still an asset to our organization to this day and he is still encouraging me and helping me push the limits of our company and academy.

His leadership, artistry, and commitment to excellence are qualities that will serve any organization well.

I would be happy to answer any further questions you may have.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debi Janea".

Debi Janea
Academy Director
850.432.9546. ext 105
debijanea@balletpensacola.org